

4. A method of allowing bypass of a ring signal in a voice messaging system, comprising:

receiving a non-ring signal indicating a presence of an incoming call to said voice messaging system; and

answering said incoming call by said voice messaging system [by placing a telephone line in an off-hook condition] before a reception of any ring signal by said voice messaging system.

8. Apparatus for allowing bypass of a ring signal in a voice messaging system, comprising:

means for receiving a non-ring signal indicating a presence of an incoming call to said voice messaging system; and

means for answering said incoming call by said voice messaging system [by placing a telephone line in an off-hook condition] before a reception of any ring signal by said voice messaging system.

12. A method of allowing a calling party to bypass a ring signal in a voice messaging system of a called party, said voice messaging system including voice message memory for recording a voice message, the method comprising:

providing a ring signal bypass module in said voice messaging system;

activating said ring signal bypass module based on a request from said calling party; and

bypassing all ring signals to said voice messaging system by answering a call from said calling party by said voice messaging system before a reception of any ring signal by said voice messaging system.